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ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE DIRECTOR OF
PSYCHOLOGICAL STRATEGY BOARD
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

PSYCHOLOGICAL STRATEGY BOARD
WASHINGTON

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JAN 14 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: General Walter B. Smith
Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Progress Report on Implementation of PSB D-14c "Psychological Operations Plan for the Reduction of Communist Power in France."

Attached hereto for your information is an interim progress report on PSB D-14c "Psychological Operations Plan for the Reduction of Communist Power in France".

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NSC review completed

Director

Enclosure:

1. Progress Report on Implementation of PSB D-14c, Dated January 13, 1953
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PSYCHOLOGICAL STRATEGY BOARD
Washington 25, D. C.

January 14, 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable
David K. E. Bruce
Under Secretary of State

SUBJECT: Progress Report on Implementation of PSB D-14c "Psychological Operations Plan for the Reduction of Communist Power in France."

Attached hereto for your information is an interim progress report on PSB D-14c "Psychological Operations Plan for the Reduction of Communist Power in France".

[redacted]

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Director

Enclosure:

1. Progress Report on Implementation of PSB D-14c, dated January 13, 1953

(Note: Identical Memoranda sent to Mr. Foster, General Smith and General Young.)

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January 13, 1953

Progress Report on Implementation of PSB D-14c "Psychological Operations Plan for the Reduction of Communist Power in France."

Formal implementation of PSB D-14c "Psychological Operations Plan for the Reduction of Communist Power in France", is now in its eleventh month with coordinating committees functioning regularly in both Paris and Washington. During this period there has been an interchange of views between members of the committees, both by personal visits and by exchange of reports and other pertinent papers. Functioning of the Paris Committee is the direct responsibility of our Ambassador and, in addition to interdepartmental representatives, discussions are now participated in by the Chief of the MSA Mission to France and the Deputy Chief of Mission, Paris Embassy. A representative of the U. S. Commander-in-Chief, Europe, will also soon participate in the discussions. Progress toward achieving the objectives of PSB D-14c is regarded as satisfactory with the initiative in anti-communist activities being taken by the French Government and with our own activities being conducted in the background.

The French Communist Party continued throughout 1952 to contract in size and to display the same lack of dynamism that has characterized it to an ever increasing extent during the past four years. Membership in the Party is now estimated at around 450,000, amounting to a 50 percent decline in over-all membership since 1946. The electoral strength of the Communists, however, continues to run at about 5,000,000 out of a total of 19,000,000 votes cast in each postwar national election.

At no time during 1952 did the Party reveal any capacity for rallying non-communist support to such an extent as to influence government policy. Signs of a split in the Party hierarchy became evident with the purge of Marty and Tillon and in September the Party line became a "United National Front" policy. The French Communists are apparently striving to create a united front with all elements of the population on the basis of a program of "peace, national independence, and democratic liberties".

In spite of its decline in 1952, the French Communist apparatus will remain for the foreseeable future a powerful and dangerous factor for French security and therefore for our own within the NATO framework. The CPF is one of the world's largest Communist parties outside the Soviet Bloc. In France, itself, it is still a major political party, an important power in the trade union movement, and a huge propaganda machine.

For the immediate future the most likely lines of attack against the sources of Communist strength lie in legislative and administrative moves by the French Government and in action by ourselves in the field of public opinion. If the French Government succeeds in its present efforts to convict the Party leaders (and thus the Party itself) of treason by judicial process, and so to brand the Party as "foreign", the basis will have been laid for all manner of measures to weaken Communist influence.

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